

REMARKS

Claims 16 - 18 are pending. Claims 1 - 15 and 19 - 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 - 18 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 16 - 17 were objected to due to informalities. Particularly, the examiner has suggested that the recitation of “optical signal” in claim 16 should be changed to “optical signals” and that the recitation of “related said optical switch” should be changed to “related to said optical switch.” The applicants have amended claims 16 - 17 to adopt the examiner’s suggestions. Accordingly, the objection to claims 16 - 17 should be withdrawn.

It should be noted that claim 16 was also amended to correct a typographical error. Particularly, claim 16 was further amended to recite “a monitor for outputting a signal to the subsystem controller according to said ~~output signal~~ optical signals...” Support for this amendment can be found on, for example, pg. 6, lines 37 - 44.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16 - 18 is acknowledged and appreciated.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry S. Culpepper", written over a horizontal line.

Kerry S. Culpepper
Reg. No. 45,672

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400